

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 31 of 1904.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 30th July 1904.

CONTENTS.

Page.	Page.]
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.	
The Tibet expedition	695
The Tibet expedition	<i>ib.</i>
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.	
(a)— <i>Police</i> —	
Prostitute nuisance at Navinagar in the Tippera district ...	695
Chaukidars and dafadars in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district ...	<i>ib.</i>
Sufferings of chaukidars brought to Barisal town ...	696
Oppressions by gamblers ...	<i>ib.</i>
A suspicious death in Rangpur ...	<i>ib.</i>
Increase of thefts in the country ...	<i>ib.</i>
(b)— <i>Working of the Courts</i> —	
Inconvenience of witnesses in criminal cases at Bhola in the Backergunge district ...	697
The first Sub-Judge and the Munsifs of Barisal ...	<i>ib.</i>
A complaint against the Sub-Registrar of Buruipur ...	<i>ib.</i>
The Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore ...	<i>ib.</i>
(c)— <i>Jails</i> —	
Nil.	
(d)— <i>Education</i> —	
A proposal for abolishing the post of Deputy Inspector of Schools ...	697
The question of Tata's Research Institute ...	698
Proposed removal of the Burdwan Technical School to Asansol ...	<i>ib.</i>
A contradiction ...	699
(e)— <i>Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration</i> —	
How the cost of water-works for Barisal should be met ...	699
Complaints of water-scarcity ...	<i>ib.</i>
Construction of railways by District Boards ...	<i>ib.</i>
A complaint against the Municipality of Baraset ...	700
A strike of the hay and straw merchants of Bagbazar in Calcutta ...	<i>ib.</i>
(f)— <i>Questions affecting the land</i> —	
Nil.	
(g)— <i>Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation</i> —	
A steamer complaint ...	700
Inconveniences of railway passengers going to Gazi Saheb's <i>mela</i> in the 24-Parganas ...	701
A railway complaint ...	<i>ib.</i>
The Asansol outrage case ...	<i>ib.</i>
"A petition to the Lieutenant-Governor"	<i>ib.</i>
A railway complaint ...	702
Wanted a culvert in the Midnapore district ...	703
(h)— <i>General</i> —	
Prayers to the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of his visit to Barisal ...	708
The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Barisal ...	<i>ib.</i>
The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Faridpur ...	<i>ib.</i>
Dredging of the Bhagirathi and the need of a new subdivision in Murshidabad ...	704
The question of the partition of Bengal ...	<i>ib.</i>
The partition question ...	705
A complaint against a postmaster ...	<i>ib.</i>
A petition to the Collector of Midnapore ...	<i>ib.</i>
Frauds in connection with the pilgrim camps in Chittagong ...	<i>ib.</i>
The pasture question in Sitakund in Chittagong ...	<i>ib.</i>
Mr. Pope, the Manager of the Tajhat Ward's Estate, Rangpur ...	706
The Superintendent of the Burma Government Press ...	<i>ib.</i>
The practice of supplying <i>rasad</i> and <i>dali</i> ...	<i>ib.</i>
The supply of <i>rasad</i> and <i>dali</i> to officers in the mufassal ...	707
The Road Cess Fund ...	<i>ib.</i>
III.—LEGISLATION.	
Suggestions for the amendment of Act VIII of 1885 ...	708
IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Nil.	
V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Drought in Northern Bengal ...	709
The flooding of the Damodar ...	<i>ib.</i>

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

How the English rule India	... 709
Lord Curzon and sympathetic government for India	710

URIA PAPERS.

A special meeting of the Orissa Association	... 711
An irregular act of Mr. Schurr, the late District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack	... ib.
Associations to patronise native manufactures	... ib.
The flood in the Suvarnarekha and other rivers	... ib.
The dismissal of an apprentice in the Kanungo Department of the Cuttack Collectorate	... ib.
The recent accident on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway	ib.
The recent accident on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway	712
The <i>Ratha jatra</i> festival at Puri	... ib.
The rainfall	... ib.
Mining in the Talcher State	... ib.
Flood in the Burabalang river	... ib.

URIA PAPERS—concl'd.

A school for the education of the aborigines in Bamra 712
The partition question ib.
The flood in the Brahmani river ib.
The absence of wine-shops in Angul town ib.
The car festival at Talcher ib.
The court language in Gangpur State in the Chota Nagpur Division ib.
The flood in the Suvarnarekha river 713
The rain ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd July says that just as the Boer war was the fruit of the undue influence exerted on the British Government by the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes and his powerful followers, so the Tibet war is the fruit of the excessive zeal which has been exhibited by Lord Curzon and his colleagues in the matter. Lord Curzon and his partisans may give the affair any name they please—Peace Mission or Commercial Mission or any other innocent name—but, truth to tell, it is nothing but an unjust military expedition. No reliance can be placed on Lord Curzon's utterances after the publication of the blue-book on the subject. The English army have taken, one after another, Khambajong, Chumbi, Tuna, and Gyantse, and are now prepared to occupy the Tibetan capital. What more could have been done if an armed expedition had been sent to Tibet instead of the so-called Peace Mission?

2. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 22nd July, in an article headed "Might is Right," writes:—

The Tibet expedition.

The English rulers tried to persuade the world

that the object of the peaceful Mission to Tibet was to conclude a treaty with the Tibetans. If the Tibetans formed a close alliance with the Russians, or if the latter were allowed to enter Tibetan territory, there might be danger to the British Indian Empire. It was to prevent the possibility of such a danger that the Mission was sent. But can the reader believe that such was really the object when he sees what has followed? Everybody can see how peace is being established by burning villages, obstructing the water-courses, and killing countless Tibetans.

We have been advocating peace from the beginning and we wish that peace may soon be concluded. But the British ought to be generous if honourable peace is meant to be concluded. Why is the Gyantse fort sought to be taken possession of beforehand? If it is meant to make a treaty with the Tibetans, no more damage should be done to their country, and their full rights and privileges should be restored to them. Only see that the Tibetans give no trouble in future. Your exploits serve only to make us bleed. Sir Henry Cotton said that Tibet was neither the friend of India nor its enemy. Why then should the expenses of the Tibet war be paid from the Indian treasury? But who is there to listen to the advice of Sir Henry? Nobody's voice can avail to arrest Lord Curzon's irresistible course of action. If the British do not come forward to conclude a reasonable treaty with Tibet, the Grand Lama is not the man to give up the struggle easily. Even when peace proposals are going on, the Lama is prepared to fight. This only shows that more Tibetan blood will be shed and more Indian money will be thrown away. Let therefore the Curzonian roaring be discontinued, and let the British Raj take pity on the weak Tibetans and the poverty-stricken Indians.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Hitavarta* [Muradnagar, Tippera] of the 14th July complains that

Prostitute nuisance at Navi. the prostitute quarters at Navinagar in the Tippera district being situated on and near the only road

nagar in the Tippera district. leading to the school and the riverside, are a source of great nuisance. Sometimes the disturbances created by midnight revelries of drunkards exceed all bounds. The local pleaders, *amla*, school-masters and other respectable people have to undergo serious inconvenience. The attention of the Divisional Inspector of Schools and of the District Magistrate is drawn to the matter.

4. Babu Sarat Chandra Goswami writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of

Chaukidars and dafadars in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. the 14th July from Kokedahara in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district complaining that the chaukidar, though appointed to save

the life, property, and honour of the villagers, is seldom seen, except when the tax is to be collected or when a police officer

HITAVADI,
July 22nd, 1904.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAH,

July 22nd, 1904.

HITAVARTA,
July 14th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
July 14th, 1904.

makes his appearance in the village. The strange creature called the 'dafadar' is the right-hand man of police officers. The dafadar and the chaukidar, who fatten upon the hard-earned money of the villagers, do them very little good. They do the work of Government, for which Government ought to pay instead of wringing money from the poor villagers. Well-to-do and influential villagers have to bear a small portion of the tax, while the poor and helpless are overtaxed. Panchayets are generally uneducated men who cannot be expected to satisfactorily perform their responsible work. Educated men may be willing to work as panchayets if they are given suitable remuneration and if they find it possible to work with honour and self-respect.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
July 20th, 1904.

5. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 20th July remarks that it has long been a custom, when the Lieutenant-Governor visits a mufassal station, to bring together the chaukidars from the surrounding villages and make them parade the streets of the town. These chaukidars coming from remote villages are in many cases utterly ignorant of the ways of town-life. They consequently suffer many inconveniences during their sojourn there. They usually find no shelter to sleep in, and the cost of procuring food in the bazars presses hardly on their scanty income. During His Honour's recent visit to Barisal their sufferings were specially aggravated by the bad weather which prevailed at the time. The poor fellows had to pass almost the whole day in wet clothes. The authorities should provide some remedy for these grievances.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 19th, 1904.

6. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th July complains of the outrages committed by gamblers in the three villages of Elenga, Masajan and Baniabari. These ruffians assault passers-by who refuse to join in their gambling and rob them of their valuables. On the 18th June last, the servants of the Inspector of Police at Tangail, and of the Daroga Babu at Kalihatni were assaulted in this way at Elenga, although they declared that they were the servants of police officers.

In a second case given by another correspondent the victim was Babu Kali Charan De, second Pandit, Ghatail School. On the 28th June last, when he was proceeding to Tangail through Masajan village, one of the gamblers first tried to persuade him to play, and, on his refusing, began to pull his *chadar*. The appearance of a second passer-by just at this moment put a stop to further outrage.

A third case is mentioned where a person who was going from Haripur cutcherry (Ghatail outpost) to Tangail on business was compelled by threats to play, and thereby robbed of five rupees.

RANGPUR
VARTAVASA,
July 22nd, 1904.

7. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 22nd July says that Batal Das, a chaukidar of the Mahiganj thana, while lying across the railway line, was run over by a passing train. The guard of the train, suspecting foul play, took away the badge of the dead man. The chaukidar was a young man and could have no motive for committing suicide. But the police have given up the enquiry, taking the case for a railway accident. Rumour has it that a certain wealthy Saha wanted to have the beautiful wife of the man and offered him Rs. 300. But he refused the money. The case is certainly a suspicious one, and the Magistrate should institute a sifting enquiry.

BANGAVASI,
July 23rd, 1904.

8. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July regrets that thefts have become so common that it is compelled to notice such cases every week. In many villages the inhabitants are compelled to keep awake the whole night. The other day a Tippera paper mentioned a case where some residents of a well-known village had been compelled to leave it for fear of thieves. Each village has its quota of chaukidars and dafadars as before, and every thana has its regular police. Why should there be this increase of crime then? New rules have been introduced as regards the appointment of chaukidars. The poorest villager is now made to pay the chaukidari-tax : he must not mind if what is left is not enough to satisfy his hunger. And yet in return he cannot even enjoy protection for his own little property. A correspondent from Garalgacha in the district of Hooghly writes to say that some young men of that village have

been compelled to take upon themselves the duty of watch and ward in the village. They patrol the village at night, lantern in hand, and guard the property of the sleeping villagers.

But surely this is not just. The villagers are made to contribute regularly for the support of the chaukidars, and they get no return for their money. And even in doing the duty which properly belongs to the chaukidars, they are hampered by not having any arms to defend themselves in sudden emergencies.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

9. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 13th July complains that the witnesses in criminal cases at Bhola in the Backergunge district are greatly inconvenienced for want of a waiting-room in the Court premises.

Inconvenience of witnesses in criminal cases at Bhola in the Backergunge district.
The great banian tree in the court-yard, under which they used to take shelter, has been cut down for the convenience of the Sporting Club, and the poor witnesses are now compelled to loiter about in the sun, wind and rain. The attention of the Subdivisional Officer of Bhola is drawn to the matter.

BARISAL
HITAISHI,
July 13th, 1904.

10. The same paper says that there are at present seven Munsifs and two Sub-Judges in Barisal. The first Sub-Judge

The first Sub-Judge and the Munsifs of Barisal.
is too old, and that is why he shows a slight sourness of temper. As an illustration, the following incident may be mentioned. In a suit for the realization of Rs. 200 from an illiterate Muhammadan on account of a loan alleged to have been taken by him from the plaintiff, the defendant prayed for a postponement on the alleged ground that he had no previous knowledge of the case. But the Sub-Judge, without enquiring whether summonses had been properly served, refused to grant the postponement prayed for, and decreed the demand against the defendant.

BARISAL
HITAISHI.

As regards the Munsifs, it may be said that they are generally impatient of delay and are averse to granting postponement in any case. It should be remembered that it is no easy task for the parties to produce their witnesses in Court. The Munsifs sometimes take more than a month to write out their judgments. How can they remember the facts and other matters connected with the cases in order to be able to deliver judgment after such a long interval? While they are so scrupulously averse to grant postponements, they are remarkably lazy in doing their part of the work. This would be an amusing sight were it not reprehensible.

11. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 22nd July complains of the irregularities

A complaint against the Sub-Registrar of Baruipur.
of the Sub-Registrar of Baruipur in the 24-Parganas. He never comes to office earlier than 12-30 or 1 P.M., and then passes an hour in reading the newspapers. It is thus 1-30 or 2 o'clock before he attends to his work. This leaves time to register only ten or twelve documents during the whole day. He is also in the habit of using a private room, where he can do his work in a half-reclining posture. He is extremely disobliging and uncivil.

SOLTAN,
July 22nd, 1904.

12. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July is sorry that the

The Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore.
present Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore has turned out a very harsh-tempered officer. On the 14th instant, noticing that a respectable native was entering his Court room with his shoes on, he ordered his *chaprasi* to take out his shoes and wet them. The Magistrate is a very young officer, and that is probably the reason why he has become so bad tempered on being vested with magisterial powers.

BHARAT MITRA,
July 23rd, 1904.

(d)—*Education.*

13. The *Hitavarta* [Muradnagar, Tippera] of the 7th July suggests the

A proposal for abolishing the post of Deputy Inspector of Schools.
abolition of the post of Deputy Inspector of Schools. The nature of the work done by the holders of the post does not justify the expense incurred on their maintenance. The paper then considers the duties

HITAVARTA,
July 7th, 1904.

at present devolving on them, and the arrangements that might be made to carry on the work in their absence:—

(1) *Supervising the work of the Sub-Inspectors of Schools.*—The jurisdiction of each Sub-Inspector is usually confined to one or more thanas. Both the District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Magistrate in the course of their tours visit every thana. This work of inspecting the schools in each thana may therefore be well done by them. This extra work would not prove much of a burden, as the number of schools in each thana is very few.

(2) *Passing of pay and other bills relating to educational expenditure.*—The District Magistrate as Chairman of the District Board can receive and pass bills of all kinds. If he cannot take upon himself this additional work he may authorise the Vice-Chairman of the Board or the Subdivisional Officers subordinate to him to do it for him. Perhaps it may be necessary to give each Subdivisional Officer a special clerk for educational business.

(3) *The submission of Annual Reports.*—The annual reports may be prepared by the Sub-Inspectors, and submitted through the Subdivisional Officer to the District Board. The report for the whole district may be compiled in the District Board's office, and submitted through the District Magistrate to the Divisional Inspector of Schools.

(4) *Representation of educational interests on the District Board.*—The present class of Sub Inspectors are a well-qualified set of men. One of these, a specially meritorious officer, might be selected in each district to represent the Education Department on the Board's Education Committee. His head-quarters should be at the sadar station, and he might be styled Senior Sub-Inspector and his pay might be not less than Rs. 100 per mensem. His position would be analogous to that of the Special Sub-Registrar, whose jurisdiction extends to the whole district.

14. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 14th July writes:—

What a pity that Lord Curzon, true friend of
India that he is, refused to grant more than
Rs. 30,000 annually, and that for a limited number
of years only, in aid of the projected Research Institute of the late Mr. Tata! But His Excellency was willing to undertake the entire management of the Institute provided the entire funds, including the annual grant of Rs. 30,000 from the Mysore Government, were made over to the Government. If this proposal were carried out, the Indians, we are afraid, would not be appointed as professors of the Institute, and the main purpose of the donor would thereby be defeated. His object was to appoint European professors at the outset, and as Indian scholars of eminence were turned out by the Institute, to appoint them in the place of Europeans. This proposal of the patriotic donor did not meet with the approval of Government. If Government undertakes the sole management of the Research Institute, it will degenerate into an institution for enabling Europeans to earn their livelihood. Why cannot our wealthy men supplement the late Mr. Tata's liberality by making over property worth Rs. 60,000 a year? In a country where people regard it a bounden duty to sacrifice their all for the public good, to what a miserable plight are the people reduced! They are being ruined in their attempt to gain the empty titles of distinction which are conferred by Government.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 19th, 1904.

15. The *Burdwan Sanjirani* [Burdwan] of the 19th July regrets that a proposal has been made to remove the local Technical School to Asansol. None of the authorities responsible for its maintenance (the District Board, the Municipality, or the Maharaja) suggested the change. It is said that the Principal of the Sibpur Civil Engineering College on his recent visit to the school recorded in the Visitors' Book an opinion in favour of its removal elsewhere, and this is how the question has been raised. A hope is expressed that the Chairmen of the District Board and the Municipality will earn the gratitude of the local public by using their influence against the proposed change.

16. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st July publishes the following letter of contradiction written in English by Babu Kailas A contradiction. Chandra Bhattacharyya, of the Chittagong College, to the editor of the paper:—

Your picture of the present state of the College is entirely fictitious. It is not true either that many students are leaving it, or that they are doing so on account of the incompetency of the staff. A few plucked students of last year have, I know, gone to Agartala and Comilla in order to avoid the Test Examination which we have in this College. Both those places have a healthy climate, and the College at Agartala is also a free College. Would you call this an indication of the incompetency of the Chittagong staff? Without making any invidious comparison, I need only assure you that our much-abused staff is at this moment just as strong as it ever was even during the days of the educational giants of whom you speak and whom I also knew more or less.

For two reasons I find it necessary to contradict your statement. In the first place, your paper is largely read by young men of unripe minds by whom anything found in print is taken for gospel truth. Your remarks in question are calculated to engender in our students a spirit of disrespect for their teachers, which is damaging to both the parties, but more so to the former.

Secondly, there is at this moment a movement afoot to collect public subscriptions for the proposed buildings for the College Hostel. Your ungenerous remarks will give a handle to those who are unwilling to subscribe, and discourage others who may be willing to do so.

I therefore hasten to request you that in the name of fair play no less than for the interest of the College whose welfare you seem to have so much at heart, you will be so good as to give this letter of contradiction an early place in your paper.

In conclusion, little as you give us credit for competency in English, let not your printer's devil still more degrade it in the eyes of your readers.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

17. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's recent speech at Barisal, the *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 20th July takes exception to His Honour's suggestion that the cost of the water-works of the town might be met from as increase of the municipal tax. The inhabitants are so poor that even with the present rate of tax many of them are in arrears. The need again of water-works is not so urgent, as a sufficient supply of pure drinking water is easily available. If the tax is increased, water may be more plentiful, but food-grains, which are of more importance, will be made proportionately scarcer. Steps should therefore be taken to collect subscriptions from the richer members of the community. This would neither be impracticable nor difficult, if set about in right earnest.

18. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July publishes complaints regarding water-scarcity from the following places:—

Syamgram in Tippera; Arangabad, Dogachi, in Patna; Roha, Jafarganj, in Dacca; Kaidhop, Gokul, in Bogra; Sriramdi, Chandpur, in Tippera; Barul, Dhanyakhali, in Hooghly; Harekandi, Manikganj, in Dacca; Nijtala, Harinakundur, in Jessore; Chutipur, Kaliganj, in Nadia; Naupara, Baraigram, in Rajshahi; Baharagram, Purvasthali, in Burdwan; Adharkota, Dulai, in Pabna.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st July has the following:—

The Government of India have notified that if any District Board wishes to construct a railway, the Government will be prepared, subject to certain conditions, to advance money for the purpose. Here is a new temptation placed before the Boards. We are afraid that the effect of this notification will be that the Boards will come to neglect their more important duties, such as the improvement of sanitation and education, the building of roads, etc., which are the purposes for which they exist. The example of the Nadia District Board should serve as a warning. This body was compelled to divert much of its money, which should have been devoted to education or sanitation, to the

Jyoti,
July 21st, 1904.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
July 20th, 1904.

BANGAVASI,
July 23rd, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
July 21st, 1904.

maintenance of its railway. The Magistrates are the absolute masters of the District Boards. They would not hesitate to spend any amount of the District Boards' funds on railway construction, if they got the slightest hint from Government to that effect.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 26th, 1904.

20. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 26th July complains of the shortcomings of the present Municipality of Baraset. First as regards sanitation,

the primary purpose for which a municipality exists, the town is a hot-bed of malaria, jungle abounds on all sides of it, the drains are choked with weeds and give off poisonous gases. No effort is made by the municipality to remedy this condition of things. The municipality maintains a "Lorimer boiler" to heat the drinking water-supply of the town. The inside of the reservoir is overlaid with a coating of dirt; the water coming out of it has consequently often a bad smell. Sometimes the water is not boiled at all and unboiled water is supplied to the water-pipes.

As a second case of municipal neglect, take the condition of the roads. Some of the minor streets and lanes seem never to have been repaired. Every year at the commencement of the rainy season, minor repairs are made to the roads, but they wear off in two or three months' time. The lamps are few in number, and even these few go out after two or three hours, for want of a sufficient supply of oil. Two sweepers are indeed kept up to keep the streets clean, but they are never seen to do their work.

The latrine arrangements still remain unsatisfactory. The rate of the latrine-tax was revised last year. A new valuation is being made this year, and the tax is being fixed at a higher rate. The appeals of aggrieved rate-payers are being rejected out of mere *zid*. And the worst of it is that the public get no return for their increased burdens. The municipal *mehter* rarely visits a house oftener than once a week.

It is a question how far the Commissioners are justified by law in thus changing the rate of the tax year after year. Under section 97 of the Bengal Municipal Act a house once assessed to the latrine-tax cannot again be reassessed before five years. The only exceptions are those enumerated in section 108.

The question now is: How can these exceptions authorise the Commissioners to order a general revaluation of all the houses?

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 27th, 1904.

A strike of the hay and straw merchants of Bagbazar have gone on strike since Sunday last, the 24th instant. They decline to supply even those whom they are bound

by agreement to supply, preferring rather to incur the penalty of breach of contract. The cause of this strike is alleged to be the oppressions committed by the employés of the Port Commissioners. At the time of taking delivery of goods from the boats, the clerks, it is said, insist on their taking out passes for more than the proper weight. Another ground of complaint is this: Unless cargoes are taken delivery of, and the boats discharged within a time fixed by the Port authorities, additional dues are exacted. This restriction of time is, however, not applied in the case of any other kind of cargo. So there is not much to blame in the conduct of these traders. They are only waiting for a redress of their just grievances to resume their trade.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

HITAVARTA,
July 7th, 1904.

22. A correspondent of the *Hitavarta* [Muradnagar, Tippera] of the 7th July calls attention to the inconveniences suffered by

A steamer complaint. passengers at Srimaddi, a steamer station on the east bank of the Megna, under the jurisdiction of the Noachur post-office, and a place of call for steamers of the Narainganj-Cachar service of the India General Navigation Company. It is alleged that the steamers are not brought alongside of the shore. If this cannot be done owing to the shallowness of water on the edge, a big boat might be procured and the steamer's gangway hooked on to it. Or at any rate the steamer might be brought sufficiently near the shore and the gangway lowered so as to enable passengers to pass over it with safety. What is done at present is to convey the passengers in a small boat to the steamer. Here they have either to be dragged up or have themselves to jump up on to the deck. This, it is needless to say, is highly inconvenient, specially

to females. Another subject of complaint is the utter want of any place of shelter for females on the station platform. Again, the accommodation provided for males is so restricted and dirty that it is quite unfit for the use of respectable people.

23. Two correspondents, who call themselves naibs of the Bansra zamindari cutcherry, make the following complaints

Inconveniences of railway passengers going to Gazi Saheb's mela in the 24-Parganas. in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th July :—

(1) Most of the carriages of the special trains carrying the *mela* passengers from Diamond Harbour

and Calcutta to the Bansra or Ghutiari station were goods waggons. There is usually very great overcrowding in the carriages.

(2) The passengers have to suffer great hardship on account of the irregular timing of the special trains.

(3) There is no waiting-room for passengers at the Ghutiari station. The passengers are compelled to remain standing in the mud and water waiting for trains.

(4) This year the railway authorities did not permit shop-keepers to open their shops near the station, thereby inflicting great hardship upon the passengers, who usually obtain their food and drink from those shops.

It is to be hoped that the authorities will see that these inconveniences are removed in future.

24. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 22nd July complains that the number of trains running into Chittagong is insufficient.

A railway complaint. Besides the mail train there is only one other passenger train. Moreover, the trains do not arrive punctually to time. Trains which are timed to arrive at 8 P.M. come so late as 10 or 11 P.M. This puts passengers to the greatest inconvenience, as neither householders nor hotel-keepers like to be disturbed at such a late hour to receive them as guests. And yet it was on the plea of easier communication that Government removed the Munsif's Court from Sitakund to Chittagong.

25. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July comments on the recent railway outrage case at Asansol in the following terms :—

It is not often that we meet with such glaring examples of love for one's kith and kin. One need not be an extraordinarily intelligent man to see through the worthlessness of Mr. Colvin's arguments. Such arguments may be employed to justify the acquittal of any offender whatever. The police acted very wrongly in releasing the accused at the request of Mr. Colvin. It will act as a distinct encouragement to these and other Europeans to commit like outrages in future. Moreover, nobody has any right to make such an unjust request to the police. We trust the attention of the authorities will be drawn to this case. The legal proceedings in connection with the trial of European offenders in this country are often farcical enough to make us laugh. If in addition the law is to be openly evaded in this fashion, then all check on oppressions on the helpless natives would be taken away. Mr. Colvin would have hesitated to make such a shameless defence of the action of the offending guards if he had held the chastity of Indian women of any value.

"A petition to the Lieutenant-Governor." 26. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July has the following :—

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 16th, 1904.

SANSODHINI,
July 22nd, 1904.

BASUMATI,
July 23rd, 1904.

BANGAVASI,
July 23rd, 1904.

PETITION.

To THE HON'BLE SIR ANDREW HENDERSON LEITH FRASER, K.C.S.I.,
Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

Asansol is a large town in the Burdwan district, and a big station on the East Indian Railway. All sorts of passengers resort to the station. Recently it has appeared in some newspapers that at one place near the station three railway guards pursued a number of native women belonging to the place and attacked one. The latter was so severely belaboured that she almost lost her senses. The police arrested two of the guards, considering them guilty. The correspondents of the above newspapers also say that the District Traffic

Superintendent of the railway punished the said guards with a fine of only two days' pay. Besides this, he wrote a letter to the Assistant Inspector-General of the Railway Police requesting him to drop the prosecution on the grounds (1) that the guards were married and of good character; (2) that it was their first offence, and (3) that according to the report submitted by the European Station Master of Asansol the three guards were intoxicated at the time of the occurrence. True or false, such a story concerning such a big railway station as Asansol cannot fail to strike terror into the hearts of the public, and, as a matter of fact, the above story has really agitated the mind of every respectable man, Indian or European.

We, therefore, humbly pray that Your Honour should be so gracious as to institute an enquiry into the case to ascertain whether it is true or not, and to let the public know the result of the enquiry. We have the following queries to make in regard to the case:—

(1) Whether any native woman was attacked by a guard near the said station. If so, whether the woman was reduced to a half-senseless condition.

(2) Where, when, how and under what circumstances did the guard or guards attack the woman? Whether the guard or guards who attacked her pursued any other woman of the locality (Asansol or a neighbouring place) or not.

(3) Whether any railway officer has punished any guard or guards accused of an offence of the above nature with a fine of two days' pay.

(4) Whether any railway officer has written a letter of request to, or verbally requested, any police officer to drop the prosecution of any guard or guards charged with an offence of the above nature.

(5) (a) If the query made under head (4) is wholly or partially true, whether the railway officer referred to in it has any power legally conferred on him to request the said police officer to drop a prosecution in the above manner.

(b) If so, whether the request was made with or without the consent of the aggrieved party.

(6) Whether the accused guard or guards are Europeans, Eurasians, Hindus or Musalmans.

(7) (a) Whether the said railway officer wrote in the letter of request that they are married and of uniformly good character, and whether the offence of attacking another man's wife is mitigated by the fact that the attacking person is married.

(b) Whether it is not possible for a man of a uniformly good character to commit an offence of the above nature under the influence of liquor.

(8) Whether the said railway officer wrote in the letter of request that it was their first offence. Whether such a grave offence is pardonable if committed for the first time.

(9) Whether it is right to drop a prosecution of the above nature or lightly punish the accused in it on the ground that the offence was committed under the influence of liquor. Whether, if many men commit offences of the above nature and are lightly punished, there is not the possibility of the country being reduced to a state of anarchy.

(10) Whether the resting-place for ordinary passengers at the Asansol station is not narrow. Whether the women spoken of above were not obliged by the narrowness of space to go outside the station-house.

The above story has appeared in English newspapers, and created some commotion and anxiety among the people. It is this which has compelled us to approach Your Honour with this petition. It now lies in Your Honour to allay the public anxiety by kindly finding out the truth and doing the needful in the case.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 24th, 1904.

27. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th July calls attention to a case of ill-treatment at the hands of railway servants. On the 12th July last,

the correspondent, accompanied by a lady and children, was travelling by the morning 5-33 down train on the Midnapur-Jherriah line. When the train reached Bankura station, the Station Master called on the correspondent and his party and some other passengers to alight. When they protested the Station Master called out roughly: "First you get down, then utter." He then

helped some other passengers (who evidently had some private claims on him) to get safely into the vacant seats.

The correspondent in his hurry had to leave some of his luggage behind in the car, and to pass the whole day waiting for the next train which was due just at evening. When this train, however, arrived, the Station Master again interfered with a peremptory "This train is special for Puri passengers." The correspondent had thus to pass the whole night in the station waiting for the 10-30 train of the next morning. During this enforced halt the party and specially the children were put to the greatest inconvenience for want of proper food and rest.

28. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 20th July says that a bridge is badly needed at the fifth or sixth mile on the Panchthubi river in *hudda* No. 8 of the Mohar section within the Midnapore-Cossye Division.

Wanted a culvert in the Midnapore district.
During the rains 15 or 16 villages in the vicinity of Mohar are submerged, and not only is the cultivation of paddy seriously impeded, but men and cattle have to undergo intolerable sufferings. Many applications were made to the Executive Engineer drawing his attention to the matter without any effect. It is to be hoped that the present Collector will take steps to save the poor raiyats from loss and inconvenience.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
July 20th, 1904.

(h)—General.

29. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 13th July makes the following appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of His Honour's visit to Barisal:

Prayers to the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of his visit to Barisal.

(1) The Hon'ble Mr. Lely wrote: "The belief prevails generally among the native community that the Government deliberately foster the liquor traffic for the sake of the revenue which it brings." Yes, we believe it to be so. The liquor shops are daily multiplying in the town. The number of ganja smokers in the villages is increasing to an alarming extent. Government alone is responsible for these evils.

(2) Government is realising what is known as the landlord's fee. A very large amount has already accumulated in the Government Treasury. Government has no direct connection with this money. It is to be hoped His Honour will make a satisfactory arrangement in favour of the persons to whom the money properly belongs.

(3) The prostitutes are the worst pests of the town of Barisal. They should not be allowed to occupy houses in respectable quarters of the town, but should be made to remove outside its limits.

(4) Most people believe that the wholesale disarmament of the people of Barisal is perhaps owing to some deep political reason. Depredations by wild animals are gradually increasing, the paddy fields of the cultivator are being devastated by wild boars, and their cattle are being devoured by tigers. It is to be hoped His Honour will take pity on the poor people of Barisal and save them from these difficulties and dangers by allowing them the use of fire-arms.

30. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 20th July, in noticing the recent visit of the Lieutenant-Governor to that town, remarks that His Honour's direct and generous ways of dealing with the people have impressed them very favourably. The paper prays that God may grant health and long life to His Honour.

The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Barisal.

BARISAL HITAISHI,
July 13th, 1904.

31. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 15th July writes:—

The Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Faridpur.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal visited Faridpur on the 5th July last.

We wonder what may be the real object or utility of such visits. No Lieutenant-Governor ever granted the reasonable prayers of the people of Faridpur nor even listened to them. In the address presented to His Honour it was prayed that a subdivision might be established at Gopalganj, but the proposal has been shelved for want of funds. India under the British Government ever suffers from that chronic malady, viz., want of funds. The Government of India does not know what fresh

BARISAL HITAISHI,
July 20th, 1904.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
July 15th, 1904.

demand will be made upon its funds when the Tibet war comes to a close. How then can it afford to spend the four or five thousand rupees that may be required at the outset to establish a subdivision at Gopalganj? The project for a railway to Bhanga has been abandoned, as it was thought that the railway was not necessary. Who is then responsible for the large sum of five thousand rupees that was spent on the survey work in connection with the proposed line from Faridpur to Bhanga? Why did not His Honour reply to this question?

The river Chandana having silted up, lakhs of people in the Baliakandi, Pangsa, Bhusna, Ainpur and Muksudpur thanas are suffering the direst miseries. Cholera, small-pox and other maladies have almost depopulated many villages. In the address presented to His Honour reference was made to this state of things. We are grieved to hear that His Honour was highly displeased at it. If the mouth of the Chandana could be opened, health and plenty would reign in the villages on both banks of the river, the facilities for navigation would revive the inland trade of a large portion of the Faridpur district, and the want of drinking water would be removed. The people expect to get all these from Government and it should be quite easy to grant them. What a misfortune that His Honour ignored the prayers of the people of Faridpur!

The authorities of the local Isan School made elaborate preparations for the reception of His Honour. Their disappointment was indeed great when it was announced that His Honour would not visit the school.

PRATIKAR,
July 22nd, 1904.

Dredging of the Bhagirathi and
the need of a new subdivision in
Murshidabad.

32. The *Pratikar* [Berhampur] of the 22nd July remarks that occasion should be taken of the approaching visit of His Honour to Murshidabad to bring to his notice the deplorable condition of the Bhagirathi.

Every year the public are assured that the condition of the river would be improved by the use of dredgers, but nothing appears to have been done yet. As to the practicability of dredging the *chur* on the mouth of the Bhagirathi and thereby uniting the Bhagirathi with the main stream, there cannot be much doubt, since big canals like the Suez Canal have been excavated by the same means. This work, if carried out, will improve both the health and the trade of this part of the country, and will, besides, bring in revenue to Government.

Another point that should be brought to His Honour's notice during his coming visit is the urgent need of opening a new subdivision in the east of this district, somewhere near Domkol or Azimganj. If His Honour is made fully to understand the inconveniences arising out of the want of such a subdivision, His Honour may probably agree to provide the remedy. From the careful hearing which His Honour gave to such petitions at places like Comilla, Malda, etc., in the course of his recent tour, and from the fact that he did the right thing in almost every such case, it may be hoped that he will not hesitate to accede to this just and urgent demand of the inhabitants of Murshidabad.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
July 20th, 1904.

The question of the partition of
Bengal.

33. Referring to the announcement recently made by the Lieutenant-Governor at Comilla regarding the partition question, that what is now under consideration is not the annexation of a few Bengal districts to Assam, but the creation of a new province consisting of Assam and a part of Bengal, with its own Lieutenant-Governor, Board of Revenue, etc., the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th July observes:—

We knew this long ago from the speeches which the Viceroy made at Dacca, Mymensingh and other places. The Lieutenant-Governor's announcement comes only as a confirmation. We admit that if a new province is created, the people of East Bengal cannot be exactly said to be annexed to Assam. But the question still remains if East Bengal will be governed in the same spirit in which West Bengal is now administered. And besides this the new proposal does nothing to remove our fears of a national disruption following the political separation. People should not therefore refrain from continuing the agitation as before.

34 The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st July has the following:—

In the course of his recent tour the Lieutenant-Governor has declared everywhere that the Government of India proposed the partition of Bengal only out of a desire to benefit the governed, and that this question is still under the consideration of the Government of India and of the Secretary of State. He assured his audience that East Bengal was not going to be annexed to Assam. What was intended was to create a new province with its own Lieutenant-Governor and Legislative Council, and with the jurisdiction of the High Court and of the Board of Revenue left intact. His Honour showed some resentment at being told in one of the addresses that the partition proposals had created dismay and alarm among the public. He would not have done so if he had really felt what the people feel.

At any rate His Honour's words show that Government has not yet finally abandoned the partition proposals. It is necessary therefore to resume the public agitation on the question which is now suspended. Delegates like Messrs. R. C. Dutt, A. M. Bose, Surendra Nath Banerji and A. Chowdhury should be sent to England to convince the English people of the depth of feeling aroused among the Bengalis by this proposal, and to counteract the ascendancy obtained by Lord Curzon in the councils of the Secretary of State.

35. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th July complains that the

A complaint against a postmaster. postmaster of Gafargaon is inattentive to his duties. Payments to be made by remitters on account of money-order have often to be postponed, and delays occur in depositing money in or withdrawing it from the Savings Bank, and in the sale of stamps and envelopes.

36. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 20th July publishes a petition from the raiyats of the Jalamutha pargana in the Midnapore khas mahal to the Collector. The following are the main points in the petition:—

(1) The fertility of the soil in the Jalamutha pargana is gradually deteriorating owing to the want of arrangements for drainage. The fact was repeatedly brought to the notice of the Collector and of the Bengal Government, but no notice was taken.

(2) Last year the harvest was bad, and the raiyats barely managed to pay up the arrears of rent for the last year and the rent for the first three quarters of the current year. Certificates were issued in cases in which the raiyats failed to pay to Government the arrears of rent due to the zamindar. The tahsildars are demanding arrears of rent due to the zamindar for 1309 and 1310 (B. S.) and threaten to submit accounts for the issue of certificates.

(3) The raiyats now find themselves in a helpless condition. The heavy rains have destroyed the seedlings and there is no prospect of an outturn of the paddy crop this year. If they are now pressed for arrears of rent of two or three years and have to pay the costs for the certificates, their ruin will be inevitable.

(4) The raiyats therefore pray that certificates may not be issued.

37. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st July remarks that when

Frauds in connection with the Chittagong was made a port of embarkation for pilgrims to Mecca, they were temporarily housed in this place in straw huts built at the foot of the hills.

To make these huts stronger and more durable, Government spent last year a large sum in improvements. The total cost amounted to something like Rs. 50,000. The plague regulations having been withdrawn, this outlay must be regarded as a waste of the public money. And what is more, at the time of putting these huts up to auction it was found that they would not fetch much, as the contractors had used materials of only the worst quality in the construction. It is to be hoped that the Magistrate will bring the contractors responsible for this fraud to justice.

38. A correspondent of the same paper refers to the hardship caused by

The pasture question in Sitakund in Chittagong. converting public pasture lands into State reserves. The villagers of Sitakund formerly used the neighbouring hillside to graze their cattle on, to get

SANJIVANI,
July 21st, 1904.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 19th, 1904.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
July 20th, 1904.

JYOTI,
July 21st, 1904.

JYOTI.

their supply of fuel from, and for other like proposes. As this tract of land was constituted a reserved forest area, the villagers were compelled to resort to the *chur* on the bank of the Sandip channel for cattle-grazing purposes. But even here they are not to be let alone long. This year Government has issued orders for taking the *chur* into *khas* possession and putting up the grass-cutting rights on it to auction. The effect of this policy of gradually closing all public pastures is seen in the steady deterioration of native cattle. Government should follow the example set by itself in Burma, and by private zamindars in this province, and set apart pieces of land for pasture purposes for the benefit of the surrounding villagers. It can surely afford to do without the few rupees brought in by the sale of the grass.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAH,
July 22nd, 1904.

39. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 22nd July says that Mr. Pope, the Manager of the Tajhat Ward's Estate,

Tajhat Ward's Estate, Rangpur.

has withheld the monthly allowance of the Maharani.

If there is no money in hand, how is it that the Manager's salary is not stopped? It is said that Mr. Pope is personally known to Sir Andrew Fraser and that is why he does exactly as he pleases. The boys and teachers of the Tajhat High School are rotting in a tin shed. The Manager ought to evacuate the *pucca* school building. He should not court unpopularity by persisting in his *zid*.

HITAVADI,
July 22nd, 1904.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd July says that Mr. Sanderson, the Superintendent of the Burma Government Press, behaves so badly towards his subordinates that there are, at present, only two clerks of five years' service in it and the rest are all of one or less than one year's service.

Babu Surendranath Banerji, the Accountant of the Press, had, under orders from the Government, devised a scheme, in consultation with Mr. Sanderson, for the improvement of the working of the Press office. Work began to be done in the Book Depôt in accordance with this scheme. Formerly old papers were not preserved in the Press, but now that they were to be preserved, Surendra Babu asked for a new hand on Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 per mensem. Government asked Mr. Sanderson to submit a proposition statement in connection with the proposed post, but he has not been able to submit it within the last eight or nine months. His only care is to see Europeans appointed on high salaries, and so the question of appointing a native clerk on Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 was shelved. In the meantime, as the working of the new scheme in the Book Depôt proved satisfactory, it was adopted in the other sections of the Press also. But as the additional clerk has not yet been appointed, it requires more than two days to search out a paper six or seven months old. Does not Government's work suffer in consequence of this? Mr. Sanderson's audacity knows no bounds.

Some months ago Mr. Sanderson wrote to Mr. Ross to the effect that Mr. Keene the then Accountant-General of Burma, was a plaything in the hands of an old "native" named Sarkar Babu, meaning thereby Babu Narasingha Chandra Sarkar, a Superintendent of the Accountant-General's office. In a letter to Mr. Chalmers, Mr. Sanderson said that Mr. Regan, the late Superintendent of the Burma Government Press, was lacking in independence, and that, being led by a clique of natives under him, he had been unable to reform the Press office in any way. On another occasion, Mr. Sanderson wrote, in a report to Government, that the condition of the Government type-founding factory was extremely bad and that its method of casting types was faulty. In reply to this, Government asked him to submit a report stating his views fully in regard to the matter. Mr. Sanderson was at a loss to make out what to do and the report was never submitted.

BASUMATI,
July 23rd, 1904.

41. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July notices in the following

The practice of supplying *rasad* and *dali*. terms a statement published in the *Sanjivani* [Report on Native Papers of 23rd July, paragraph 49]

showing the amount of money spent by some zamindars in Northern Bengal in providing *rasad* and *dali* to a Divisional Commissioner :—

We gather from this statement that just as there are regular laws in force for the payment of the King's taxes, so there are laws for the payment of *salamis* (presents) to officials operating smoothly behind the public gaze, like

the river Falgu flowing underground. In this country this is neither impossible nor surprising. If a search is made, the account books of every big zamindari will show bills for presents made to every official from the rank of a police jamadar to that of a Divisional Commissioner. The civilians here who are placed at the head of districts or divisions enjoy salaries fit for the dignity of subedars, and still they must have other sources of income like presents, etc. Who can stop this? We who write in the papers can of course abuse the officials in the choicest terms. But if the zamindars dare to stop sending present they will soon be made to feel the consequences. Who will then come to their rescue? What is the good of drawing the attention of Government to this question? How can any rule made by Government succeed in stopping payments made privately under mutual arrangements by the parties concerned? And we doubt if Government has strength enough to check this cupidity of its high officials. The zamindars know that if they can by any means afford to gag the mouth of these sole arbiters of their destiny, they are safe to commit any outrage. It is folly for us to spy faults in others, when we cannot detect the mote in our own eye.

42. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 24th July says that the system of supplying *hakims* while on tour with provisions

The supply of *rasad* and *dali* to officers in the mafasal.

HITAVARTA,
July 24th, 1904.

and *dali* has become a source of trouble to the zamindars and well-to-do cultivators in Bengal. They have to spend lots of money every year in keeping ready all sorts of provisions for this purpose. It is to be hoped that the Government will put a stop to the system.

43. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 25th July has the following article on the Road Cess Fund in its English columns:—

The Road Cess Fund.

The subject is being persistently discussed in the columns of newspapers, as also by the leaders of political agitation in this country, that the solemn pledge of the Government, that the Road Cess Fund will be scrupulously devoted to improving the condition of the roads and other sanitary requirements of the interior of the districts, has been more honoured in the breach than in its observance. Our veteran contemporary of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has cried himself hoarse over this all-important question of village sanitation, and in season and out of season has been exposing the illegality of the diversion of the Road Cess Fund to other than its legitimate object, which is, as its name implies, nothing more or less than the improvement of village communications and such other kindred things concerning rural tracts only. The other day, at the Bengal Provincial Conference held at Burdwan, Rai Nalinaksha Bose Bahadur strongly protested against the iniquity of diverting the Road Cess Fund to other than its legitimate purpose. But it seems the Government is determined to turn a deaf ear to our protest.

We know some of the predecessors of Sir Andrew Fraser were not at all disposed to plead guilty to the charge of misappropriation so often brought against the Government with reference to the Road Cess Fund. But Sir Andrew Fraser seems to think otherwise. His Honour does not think it proper to ignore popular complaints, and as its result, His Honour is trying to ascertain the truth or otherwise of these alleged charges. His Honour referred to this matter in the following terms in a speech delivered at Rajshahi:—

"I wish to say that the charge has been brought against this Government of having diverted the Road Cess to matters (such as education and medical charges) for which it was not originally intended. I am having this question carefully examined; and although I cannot yet give accurate figures for the whole of the province, I am able to say that the position of the Rajshahi District Board is one of the few districts in which there has been really any diversion of Road Cess receipts but, curiously enough, this diversion has not been made under the orders of Government, as you seem to suppose, but in clear contravention of these orders."

From the above, it is clear that His Honour admits that there has been a diversion of the Road Cess Fund. This is sufficient for our purpose at present. We will not care to enquire here at whose instance this diversion has been made. But we cannot avoid the conclusion that this diversion, by whomsoever initiated, could have been put a stop to, had the Government been really and earnestly as solicitous to preserve the integrity of this sacred trust as they were in creating it. Strange and inexplicable as it may appear, Government

DACCA GAZETTE,
July 25th, 1904.

have hitherto followed, in administering the fund, a line of policy which is, to say the least, far from honourable. And what grieves us the most is that Sir Andrew Fraser is about to commit the same blunder, as will appear from the following extract from his reply to the people of Barisal :—

"In such a matter as this (the building of the hospital at Barisal) it is right that the District Board should aid the Municipality; for it is a fact beyond dispute that a large number of patients treated in the hospital come from the interior of the district."

Sir Andrew would have us believe that inasmuch as a large number of patients come from the interior of the district, the Barisal Town Hospital has every claim upon its Road Cess Fund. Following this line of argument, it may also be reasonably claimed that inasmuch as a large number of townspeople have often to go to the interior of the district for the purpose of trade and other business, and do in consequence always use the roads, canals, etc., thereof, it is but right that the Municipality should be called upon to bear a certain portion of the cost incurred in making and keeping them in good order. May we ask, where to draw the line of demarcation between rural and urban responsibilities of the Government? Accepting His Honour's doctrine, we do not see why the District Boards should not be made to contribute to the maintenance of the municipal town roads of Barisal. What next and next?

We are really sorry to find that Sir Andrew Fraser should have agreed to allow himself to be made a party to this act of misappropriation, to use a strong term, of a public fund created for a specific object, before completing his investigation, as he told us at Rajshahi he was doing, and without carefully examining the whole question from all standpoints.

What is still more to be regretted is that Sir Andrew Fraser should have voted away the Road Cess Fund with a light heart for a purpose which by no stretch of imagination can lay any claim to it. Water-scarcity in Bengal has become proverbial, and the people living in the remote villages suffer more acutely from it than those living in the town. Government cannot remove this crying want for want of adequate funds. Such being the case, every available pice belonging to the Road Cess Fund should be spent towards removing this want, however partially. But by a strange irony of fate, even such a sympathetic and just ruler as Sir Andrew Fraser has sanctioned the illegal and, let us add, improper diversion of the Road Cess Fund for the water-works of Barisal. Verily, it is pouring oil over oily heads, to use a Bengali adage. Need we remind His Honour, every rupee of the Road Cess Fund belongs to the cess-payers, and, as such, should only be spent in rural areas and not for the benefit of town rate-payers. That this principle should be deviated from in favour of wealthy and influential townspeople is what staggers us the most.

III.—LEGISLATION.

GATRAB,
June 16th, 1904.

44. The Gaurab [Dacca] of the 16th June writes :—

Suggestions for the amendment
of Act VIII of 1885. We shall first take up Act VIII of 1885 and offer suggestions for its amendment.

Sections 15 and 16.—These sections not being properly drawn up, neither the persons succeeding to permanent tenures nor their tenants at all observe the provisions contained in them. The former do not pay the landlord's fee, do not get their names registered through the Collector, and even do not pay the rent payable by them, but manage to continue to hold their taluks. They are enabled to realise rents from their tenants with the help of the Civil Courts by proving previous realisations. Thus not only do they defy the law but deceive the landlord and the Government as well. These sections should contain the following :—

"Permanent tenure-holders shall, within six months of their beginning to enjoy the profits of their lands, get their names registered in the *sherista* of their superior landlords, failing to do which they shall be bound to pay to the landlords double the amount derivable from the lands during the period they are held in possession; and as long as their names are not so registered their lands shall be considered to be in the possession of their superior landlords. The tenure-holders shall also submit, when applying for registration of their names, the survey records (*chittas*) giving the boundaries and measurements of all lands included within their tenures, and pay registration fees and all arrears of rent. The lands not shown in the survey records shall be regarded as being in the possession of the zamindar."

Section 23.—This section does not provide any penalties if a tenant does anything calculated to impair the value of the land or render it unfit for the purposes of the tenancy. Provision for ejectment should be made in such cases.

Section 26.—It is most difficult in many cases to find out the real heirs to a tenancy on the death of a raiyat and to realise rent from them. The following provisions should be made for the realisation of the rent:—

"On the death of a raiyat his heirs shall have their names registered within six months and pay registration fees. On the refusal of the zamindar to register the names of the heirs they shall send the registration fees and all arrears due by the deceased raiyat by money-order. If the entries in the money-order are correctly made, the zamindar shall be bound to register the names, otherwise he shall not be so bound. The raiyat or raiyats registering his or their names, being the real heir or heirs of the deceased raiyat, shall take possession of all the lands, even though he or they may not be entitled to the 16 annas share of the property. If within six months of the death of a raiyat, his heirs fail to have their names registered, the landlord may himself, or through a newly-settled raiyat, take possession of the standing crops on the lands of the deceased raiyat. If within one year from the date of taking possession of the crops by the landlord the heirs apply for registration of their names and pay a fine of Rs. 10 for late application together with all other dues, the landlord shall register their names and allow them the possession of the lands."

Sections 27 to 46.—The provisions for the enhancement and reduction of rent are most unwise. On the one hand, when the raiyats combine to give false evidence in the Courts, forge false documents, and engage eminent pleaders, they can contrive to escape the payment of a single rupee as rent to a zamindar worth a lakh of rupees a year; and on the other, when a zamindar is oppressive, he can realise rent in excess of what is his due. Mr. Luttmann-Johnson, late Commissioner of the Dacca Division, observed in the Annual Report for 1893-94 that the average price of crops grown on an acre of land in his Division was Rs. 50 and the annual rent paid was only Rs. 2.74. But this deplorable state of things is due to the defects in the law. The Hindu *Shastras* fixed the rate of rent at one-sixth of the produce of the lands and the Muhammadan Emperors fixed it at one-third. Regard being had to the above two systems, the following provisions fixing the rate of rent should be made:—

"The amount of fair rent shall be the price of one-sixth of the gross produce of the lands. Where the rent has been fixed at a higher rate, the price of one-third of the produce may be held to be the fair rent. The landlord realising more than one-third or the tenant paying less than one-sixth shall be liable to penalties."

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

45. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 20th July says that Drought in Northern Bengal. severe drought prevails in Northern Bengal, where cultivation depends on rain-water. Famine is therefore apprehended in that part of the country.

46. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July regrets that Government takes no notice of the devastation caused year after year by the flooding of the Damodar. This year, for instance, it is reported that on the 8th July last, village Natu, thana Raina, was visited by the flood. Several houses have collapsed. The standing crops have been destroyed. The inrush of water has deposited large quantities of sand on the fields and the seeds have been destroyed. There is thus no possibility of resuming cultivation in the immediate future. It is a question for the authorities to consider how these poor people are to support themselves and to pay rent to the zamindar.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
July 20th, 1904.

BANGAVASI,
July 23rd, 1904.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

47. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July writes as follows:—
How the English rule India. The English first came to India as merchants, and as such they sought the improvement of commerce alone. But when in course of time they became the rulers of the country they could not give up their commercial propensities. Seated on the throne of Jndhishthira, Chandra Gupta, Asoka, Vikramaditya, Akbar and Aurangzeb, they still continue to be no better than sordid dealers in vegetables, fish, rice, and raiments. The Indian turned up his nose in disgust and was solely aggrieved to see his Sovereign turned into a shop-keeper. India had never,

DAILY HITAVADI.
July 23rd, 1904.

before seen a shop-keeper ruling the destinies of a nation, a *Vaisya* doing the work of a *Kshatriya*. The inevitable consequence of a tradesman being placed at the head of a zamindari followed in this case also. *Naibs*, *gomastas*, *karkuns* and peons began to commit unspeakable oppressions on the people. Every student of history knows how at the beginning of the East India Company's rule its servants used to plunder the natives with brutal ferocity. Tales of oppression committed by the Company's *Sadar Naib*, Warren Hastings, are written in blood on every wall, in every room, and on every door of the Houses of Parliament—oppressions such as no man is capable of committing on man.

The English could not look on India as rulers ought to look on the lands they govern; they looked on her with the eyes of tradesmen. How to find out markets for English cotton goods, how to divert the profits of Bengal weavers into the pockets of Lancashire weavers, and how to promote the sea-borne trade of England at the cost of vessels plying in Bengal, were the questions which engrossed their attention at that time. The result was that India lost her arts and industries, her trade was ruined, her children suffered a physical and mental degeneration, famine and pestilence became her constant companions, and she herself was doomed to perpetual misery. The country was thrown into disorder; the people forgot the aims of life, the purposes of education, and the instincts of humanity. The education which they had already received was discredited, but what they received instead was worthless and useless to them. The new education taught them slavery and the land of fabulous wealth was reduced to a *smasan* (a cremation ground).

If India ever slips out of the hands of the English—it may be a hundred years or it may be a thousand years hence—what will be left to the Indians? What will they show to the civilised world and say: "This precious thing we have received from the English while under their rule"? Where is the Roman Empire now? But the civilisation which Europe received from it is traceable in every part of the continent. Spain, Portugal and Turkey had, in their turn, ruled the world, and are now reduced to insignificance. But Spanish and Portuguese civilisation pervades the vast region from South America to Mexico—a civilisation imprinted not on ancient stones and pillars but on the hearts of a living people. But the English have failed to make a good use of the enormous wealth of their Indian Empire and of the keen intellect of its vast population. If the English had made pupils of the 300 millions of the inhabitants of the Empire, if they had given the Indians a part, and a part only, of their knowledge, power, and industries derived from and based on science, their power and influence would have been unparalleled in the world, and India, even if it had been lost to them, would ever have remembered them with gratitude. With the aid of the 300 millions of Indians the English would have made the impossible possible. But instead of doing that they have shown a singular blindness to Indian worth and talent by making gifted Indian students hewers of wood and drawers of water. They mistook the most precious jewel for a piece of glass and made it the child's plaything.

48. The same paper has the following:—

DAILY HITAVADI.

Lord Curzon has said that "The Eastern could only be ruled from the heart." Oriental races could not be governed by force, they should be ruled by sympathy. The words are very pleasant to the ear, and yet true. But in the course of the last five years and a half in what act of his did Lord Curzon show sympathy with the people of India? In utter disregard of the wails of millions of famine-stricken subjects, some partially, others wholly starving, he inaugurated the Delhi Darbar on a scale of magnificence equalled by the *Rajsuya yajnas*. Professing to treat all classes of His Majesty's subjects alike, he showed undue favour to the Imperial Anglo-Indian community. He laid the axe at the root of High Education. Did he carry the sympathies of the Indians in these acts of his? And yet when speaking he unblushingly declares that oriental races have to be ruled from the heart. He bestowed much praise on the native soldiery, but did he do anything to improve the pay and prospects of the poor native soldier? How many Sikh, Gurkha, and Pathan soldiers has he raised to the rank of General and placed on an equality with their English compeers? To create real contentment, something more than mere sweet words is necessary.

URIYA PAPERS.

49. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th July states that a numerously attended special meeting of the Orissa Association was held in the premises of the Cuttack Printing Company on the 9th July 1904. Mr. M. S. Das,

A special meeting of the Orissa Association.

C.I.E., a distinguished pleader of Cuttack, was in the chair. The meeting thanked His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Inspector-General of Police for their kindness and good judgment in releasing Banamali, Tani and Rangaya, three innocent men, who had been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and transportation for life through the machinations of the local police. A standing committee was formed with the object of bringing to the notice of the authorities cases in which the police officers, failing to bring the real offenders to justice, send up innocent men instead, and of taking steps to give effect in Orissa to the intentions of the Legislature in enacting section 172 of the Criminal Procedure Code. It was resolved to collect subscriptions to help the released men, who had lost everything during their incarceration. A committee was also formed to suggest measures to prevent the recurrence of unsatisfactory results like those of the current year in the matter of University examinations. With a resolution to request the Utkal Union Conference to perpetuate the memory of the late Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Sekhar Samanta, the meeting brought its proceedings to a close. The large gathering listened with rapt attention to the stories or confessions of the released men, and when they talked of police threats, torture, and allurements, the whole audience was convulsed with a sense of sorrow and grief, resulting in cries of "Shame!" for the police concerned.

UTKALDIPAKA,
July 16th, 1904.

50. A correspondent of the same paper says that Mr. Schurr, the late

An irregular act of Mr. Schurr,
the late District Superintendent
of Police, Cuttack.

District Superintendent of Police, Cuttack, cut down the charge allowances of some of his subordinates and distributed them among his other subordinates, his favourites, without the sanction of the higher authorities. The writer draws the attention of Government to this irregular and unjustifiable act on Mr. Schurr's part.

UTKALDIPAKA.

51. The same paper refers to an Association in Madras which patronised the match-boxes made in the Punjab and the soaps manufactured in Bengal, and says that similar Associations should be formed in all parts of India having for their object the encouragement of local manufacture and industry.

52. The same paper states that heavy rains in Chota Nagpur caused the rivers Suvarnarekha, Brahmani and Baiturni in Orissa to overflow their banks at the same time.

UTKALDIPAKA.

53. The same paper regrets that the son of Babu Jagat Ballabh Das, a Kanungo in Cuttack, who was serving as an apprentice in the Kanungo Department of the Cuttack Collectorate, was removed from that department by the order of the Collector, based on the report of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Babu Balmukunda Kanungo, simply on the ground that his father had incurred the Collector's displeasure. Considering the fact that the son of a Kanungo, if qualified, is entitled to obtain the post of his father under the rules, it is desirable that the sons of Kanungos should obtain a good training in the Collectorates. Taking this view of the matter, and considering that the apprentice in question had done nothing wrong, it is clear that the order to remove him from the Collectorate was unjust, specially as the Sarishtadar and the Sadar Kanungo, under whom he was working, were not consulted and as the order dismissing Jagat Babu has been revised by the Commissioner on appeal.

UTKALDIPAKA.

54. Referring to the late serious railway accident on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, the same paper agrees with the correspondent of the *Calcutta Statesman* in thinking that the story of one passenger killed and four wounded appears, on the face of it, incomplete or erroneous, for there were seven derailed

UTKALDIPAKA.

The recent accident on the
Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

carriages and they were all smashed to pieces, and it is believed that owing to the *Ratha Jatra* the third-class carriages were at least full of passengers.

The recent accident on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. 55. Referring to the same accident, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 13th July observes that it is a fortunate matter that the loss caused thereby was small.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
July 13th, 1904.

UTKALDIPAKA,
July 16th, 1904.

UTKALDIPAKA.

SAMVAD VAHAKA,
July 14th, 1904.

GARJATBASINI,
July 16th, 1904.

GARJATBASINI.

GARJATBASINI.

GARJATBASINI.

GARJATBASINI.

56. The *Utkalipika*

The *Rathajatra* festival at Puri.

to the pilgrims, of whom about thirty thousand were present in that town. The good Manager of the Puri temple had completed the construction of the cars in due time and had taken every precaution to make them more beautiful and stronger. Superior ropes had been indented from Calcutta, which served their purpose very well. The District Magistrate with the Manager, the District Superintendent of Police with his police force, and the Raja of Puri with his priests and Pandas were present in their appointed places in time.

57. The same paper states that there was gentle rain in the last week and that it has done good to the standing crops.

The rainfall.

58. The same paper is glad to learn that the Raja of Talcher has already spent Rs. 700 in the mining of coal, iron, and talc in Gopalprasad in that State, which is said to abound in those minerals. He has maintained an establishment that costs him more than a hundred rupees per month.

59. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 14th July says that heavy rains caused the Burabalang river to overflow its banks, but as the flood subsided within twenty-four hours no injury was done to the paddy crops standing on both banks of the river.

60. The *Garijatbasini* [Talcher] of the 16th July is glad to learn that the Raja of Bamra has opened a school for the education of the children of the aboriginal tribes inhabiting that State.

A school for the education of the aborigines in Bamra.

61. Hearing that three taluks, belonging to the Central Provinces Administration, have been amalgamated with the Madras Presidency, the same paper hopes that the Supreme Government will shortly take up the question of the union of the Uriya-speaking districts under one Provincial Government for decision and put them under the Bengal Government.

62. The same paper regrets to learn that the recent high flood in the Brahmani river washed away the young paddy plants which were standing on the fields adjacent to the river. The force of the current was so

strong that the *manjhis* were compelled to discontinue the ferry-boat service in the Talcher *ghât* for one day. The Pallahara dâk was, on this account, delayed for several hours.

63. The same paper looks upon the absence of any wine-shops in Augul town as a great blessing and thanks the authorities for it.

The absence of wine-shops in Angul town. 64. The same paper states that the car festival in Talcher town was celebrated as usual without any accident or inconvenience, though the rains interfered with its proceedings in the latter part of the day. About five thousand pilgrims attended the festival.

65. The same paper is of opinion that Uriya should be the court language of the people in Gangpur State in the Chota Nagpur Division, and hopes that Sir Andrew Fraser will be good enough to grant this reasonable prayer of the Uriyas, with whom His Honour sympathised fully while he was Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

The court language in Gangpur State in the Chota Nagpur Division.

66. The *Uriya ana Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 13th July states that
The flood in the Suvarnarekha there was a high flood in the river Suvarnaekha
river. in the Balasore district and that the extent of
damage done to property and crops is not yet
ascertained.

67. The same paper states that there was rain almost every day in the
The rain. last week.

URIA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
July 13th, 1904.

URIA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 30th July 1904.

